

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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EUR-12 STR-07 CEA-01 /150 W
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R 180038Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6220

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TOKYO 04293

FOR OES, AND EA/J, AND T

DEPT. FOR AMB. JEAN WILKOWSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, PARM, TECH, SENV, JA
SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON OF U.S.-JAPAN S&T ISSUES

1. HIROSHI OHTA, DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIVISION,
UN BUREAU, MOFA, CALLED IN SCIENCE COUNSELOR TO HOLD
LENGTHY TOUR D'HORIZON OF S&T ISSUES NOW FACING U.S. AND
JAPAN. ALTHOUGH MEETING WAS COMPLETELY INFORMAL, IT DID
RESULT IN COMMITMENTS FOR FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS.

2. OHTA MENTIONED FIRST MOFA WAS AWARE THAT MINISTER
USHIBA WAS PREPARING TO MEET NRC COMMISSIONER RICHARD
KENNEDY TO GIVE USHIBA'S REACTION TO PASSAGE OF U.S.
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT
ON FUTURE TRADE BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN IN NUCLEAR POWER
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PLANT COMPONENTS AND FUELS. USHIBA HAD EXPRESSED HIS
INTENTION OF ALSO ASKING COMMISSIONER KENNEDY TO RELAX
EXPORT RESTRICTIONS OF ACT INsofar AS THEY WOULD APPLY
TO JAPAN, BUT MOFA ADVISED HIM NOT TO DO SO. SCICOUNS
REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ARRANGING FOR
MEETING AND WOULD HAVE ITS REPRESENTATIVES (EMIN AND
SCICOUNS) PRESENT. HE ALSO SUPPORTED MOFA'S POSITION ON

RELAXATION OF EXPORT CONTROLS.

3. CREATION OF STILL ANOTHER DELIBERATIVE/CONSULTATIVE BODY ON NUCLEAR POLICY MATTERS WAS DESCRIBED BY OHTA. THIS ONE WILL BE CHAIRED BY TOSHIO DOKO, VENERABLE CHAIRMAN OF KEIDANREN. CALLED "INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROBLEM COUNCIL," GROUP OF 18 SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS MET FOR FIRST TIME ON MARCH 13. WHAT WAS SURPRISING TO OHTA (WHO WAS PRESENT) WAS THAT ALL 18 MEMBERS ATTENDED, CONSIDERING THAT NO ACTUAL BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED. APRIL 3 IS DATE OF FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING. SEPTTEL GIVES COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL, WHICH WILL ADVISE GOJ ON INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE ISSUES-- PARTICULARLY REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM UTILIZATION, AND GOJ PARTICIPATION IN INFCE.

4. SCICOUNS GAVE OHTA EXTENSIVE BRIEFING ON FOUR-PARTY DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO CONCERNING TESTING OF ADVANCED SAFEGUARDS INSTRUMENTATION AT TOKAI MURA. HE POINTED OUT THAT OFFICIAL GOJ REACTION TO DRAFT MINUTE PREPARED AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN COMMUNICATED TO EMBASSY AND ASKED THAT OHTA LOOK INTO MATTER TO SEE IF IT COULD BE EXPEDITED. OHTA EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION HAD NOT BEEN TOO OBSTRUCTIVE, SINCE AN EARLIER MEETING HE HAD HELD WITH PETIT OF CEA HAD GIVEN HIM IMPRESSION THAT FRENCH EFFORTS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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RESTRICT ACCESS TO PROPRIETARY INFO MIGHT HAVE INTERFERED SEVERELY. SCICOUNS ALSO INFORMED OHTA THAT IT WAS INTENTION OF THREE GOVERNMENTAL PARTIES TO SUBMIT REVISED OR NEW RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO IAEA CONFIRMING SAFEGUARDS TESTING AGREEMENTS REACHED, ALTHOUGH THIS INTENTION WAS NOT MADE PART OF AGREED MINUTE ON BASIS THAT EACH GOVERNMENT WAS FREE TO DO WHAT IT PLEASED IN THIS RESPECT.

5. OHTA DESCRIBED HIS RECENT VISIT TO EUROPE, WHERE HE PARTICIPATED IN STOCKHOLM WORKING GROUP MEETING ON DOUBLE LABELING UNDER LNSG AUSPICES AND IN PARIS MEETING OF IEA NUCLEAR GROUP. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ONE MORE MEETING TO CONSIDER DOUBLE LABELING ISSUE IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD TOWARD END OF YEAR, PROBLEM SEEMS TO HAVE DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY IN IMPORTANCE. HE APPEARED SATISFIED WITH JAPAN-CANADA AGREEMENT IN THIS RESPECT, STATING THAT GOJ COULD SEE LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN AGREEMENT GIVING CANADA RIGHTS OF PRIOR APPROVAL TO REPROCESSING, ENRICHMENT TO GREATER THAN 20 PERCENT U-235, AND RETRANSFERS, COMPARED TO ONE PROVIDING FOR JOINT DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREED CONDITIONS. OHTA SAID THAT DURING COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA, CANADIANS

ASSURED GOJ THAT THEY WOULD NOT SAY "NO" TO REPROCESSING OF CANADIAN-ORIGIN FUEL IF USG SAID "YES." (FYI: THIS GIVES CANADA A PERFECT OUT; ALL THE ONUS IS ON USG. END FYI.)

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWS OF THE GENERAL FUTURE OF THE LNSG, OHTA RESPONDED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE ONLY ONE MAJOR ISSUE STILL BEFORE THE GROUP: ADOPTION OF A GUIDELINE PROVIDING FOR FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION OF SUPPLY. OHTA DESCRIBED THE FRENCH AS BEING ADAMANT IN REJECTING THIS PRINCIPLE, AND SAID THAT THE LNSG MIGHT STILL BE NEEDED, IN THE EYES OF SOME MEMBERS, TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE FURTHER.

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7. CONCERNING THE IEA MEETING, OHTA NOTED THAT THIS WAS HIS FIRST EXPOSURE TO IEA NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 TOKYO 04293

JAPAN AND HE WAS IMPRESSED BY DIFFERENT APPROACH TO NUCLEAR ENERGY TAKEN IN THAT FORUM COMPARED TO OTHER MULTILATERAL DELIBERATIONS. HE DESCRIBED BRIEFLY HIS PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS WITH DAS LOUIS NOSENZO, EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD ASKED NOSENZO (IN LATTER'S

CAPACITY OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR RENEGOTIATION OF U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL) TO SEND SOMEONE TO JAPAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN IN DEPTH THE TERMS OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT. SCICOUNS OFFERED TO PROVIDE TEXT OF STATE 60855 (WHICH HAD JUST ARRIVED) AS INTERIM MEASURE, AND POINTED OUT THAT MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ACT (STATE 39449) ALREADY HAD BEEN FURNISHED TO HIM. OHTA REPORTED THAT PRELIMINARY STUDY OF ACT HAD BEEN UNDER WAY FOR SOME TIME BUT WAS HAMPERED BY LACK OF TEXT OF BILL AS ACTUALLY SIGNED BY PRESIDENT. HE WAS ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE GIVEN COPY ON RECEIPT IN TOKYO.

8. NEXT SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS IMPENDING VISIT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY OF AUSTRALIA TO JAPAN. ONE OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ANTHONY IS AMENDMENT OF EXISTING JAPAN-AUSTRALIA NUCLEAR BILATERAL. GOJ EXPECTS GOA TO ASK FOR MUCH STRONGER SAFEGUARDS AND EXPORT CONTROL

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PROCEDURES ALONG LINES OF CANADIAN BILATERAL. ALSO TO BE DISCUSSED IS FUTURE OF JAPAN-AUSTRALIA JOINT STUDY GROUP ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT. ACCORDING TO OHTA, GROUP SO FAR HAS BEEN EXAMINING WORLD NEEDS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM AND AVAILABILITY OF NATURAL URANIUM AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES. PLAN IS TO NOW PROCEED WITH STUDY OF ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY. JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY PROVEN IN RELIABILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A CENTRIFUGE PLANT TO BE BUILT IN AUSTRALIA IN NEXT TEN YEAR PERIOD, SO GOA HAS ASKED URENCO TO PERFORM FEASIBILITY STUDY ON 1000 MT SWU/YEAR PLANT. STUDY IS TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING OF ENRICHMENT STUDY GROUP ALSO PLANNED FOR APRIL. IN SOMEWHAT SURPRISING MOVE, OHTA ASKED SCICOUNS TO SOLICIT USG VIEWS OR IDEAS ON (A) LOCATING CENTRIFUGE PLANT IN AUSTRALIA, AND (B) URENCO PARTICIPATION.

9. SUBJECT OF COSMOS 954 INCIDENT WAS THEN BROUGHT UP BY OHTA. HE REPORTED THAT USG HAD EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE TO GOJ WASHINGTON EMBASSY OVER REFERENCES TO MILITARY APPLICATIONS OF SATELLITES AND TO EXCESSIVE COMPETITION AMONG NATIONS IN USE OF SPACE IN RESOLUTION PASSED BY HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS. USG WAS SAID TO TERM THESE REFERENCES "UNHELPFUL." OHTA SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD TRIED TO GET PHRASEOLOGY CHANGED WITHOUT SUCCESS, AND HAD BELIEVED IT HAD ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING BY LIMITING OBJECTIONABLE TERMS TO PREAMBLE OF RESOLUTION RATHER THAN IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS. EMBOFF RECALLED THAT EMBASSY HAD POINTED OUT TO GOJ POTENTIAL DAMAGE FROM LANGUAGE THAT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO GOJ AS WELL AS USG INTERESTS.

10. TURNING TO SUBJECTS OTHER THAN NUCLEAR, OHTA NOTED THAT GOJ HAD RECEIVED NOTE FROM KOREAN EMBASSY INFORMING
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THAT GOK WOULD BE SENDING 3000 TON FISHING VESSEL INTO ANTARCTIC WATERS TO HARVEST KRILL ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, AND THAT KOREA WAS CONSIDERING ACCESSION TO ANTARCTIC TREATY.

11. TO CONCLUDE MEETING, SCICOUNS RAISED MATTER OF 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. (PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH OHTA ON THIS HAD BEEN BRIEF AND UNFRUITFUL.) USING TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BY AMB. WILKOWSKI AND SUBSEQUENT CABLE TRAFFIC, EMBOFF STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR JAPANESE EFFORT IN MAKING CONFERENCE A SUCCESS--NOT ONLY THROUGH PREPARATION OF GOOD NATIONAL PAPER BUT IN ASSISTING LDC'S OF ASIAN REGION IN PREPARING THEIR PAPERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF GROUP OF 77 OR OTHER LDC INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES WERE TO FAIL TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE OR ATTEMPTED TO POLITICIZE IT, JAPAN--AS LEADING TECHNOLOGICAL ENTITY OF ASIA--WOULD BE ONE OF THE MAJOR LOSERS. FURTHERMORE, HE NOTED JAPANESE EXPERIENCE IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO LDC'S WOULD BE VALUABLE TO BOTH ADVANCED NATIONS AND LDC'S ALIKE. OHTA RESPONDED THAT CONFERENCE WAS INDEED OF IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN BUT ADMITTED FRANKLY THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD FAILED TO ORGANIZE ITSELF PROPERLY TO DEAL WITH IT. DESULTORY CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE WAS SPLIT BETWEEN OHTA'S DIVISION AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION ON UN BUREAU, WITH LATTER HAVING LARGER INVOLVEMENT. HE SAID THAT PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PAPER WAS UNDER WAY BUT THAT HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH DETAILS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT JAPANESE INDUSTRY WAS BEGINNING TO QUESTION SERIOUSLY THE ADVISABILITY OF MAKING MAJOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS TO LDC'S WHICH CAME BACK TO JAPAN IN FORM OF SIGNIFICANT COMPETITION, CITING KOREAN SHIPYARDS AS THE BEST EXAMPLE. ON OTHER HAND, GOJ COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION WITH ASEAN NATIONS COULD NOT BE IGNORED. OHTA WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT EQUIPPED TO DISCUSS PLANNING FOR UN CONFERENCE IN DEPTH, AND EMBOFF

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6222

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THEREFORE REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH VARIOUS
PARTS OF GOJ AND ITS QUASI-OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS WORKING
ON S&T ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S. HE READILY AGREED TO ARRANGE
MEETING AT EARLY DATE.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS INTRIGUED BY POSSI-
BILITY OF INFLUENCING GOJ POSITION IN ITS TALKS WITH
AUSTRALIANS ON GAS CENTRIFUGE IN APRIL (PARA 8). IF
DEPT. DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE, OFFICIAL USG POSITION AND
VIEWS (IN LIGHT OF NNPA PASSAGE AND EVOLVING U.S. POLICY
ON CONSTRUCTION OF ENRICHMENT PLANTS UNDER MULTILATERAL
AUSPICES) COULD BE GIVEN TO GOJ AS RESPONSE TO INQUIRY
RATHER THAN UNILATERALLY. EARLY ANSWER IS REQUIRED.
EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY LATE
INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON STATUS OF UN CONFERENCE
(PARA 11), INCLUDING WHATEVER UPDATING OF PARA 5, 77 STATE
283458, IS KNOWN TO DEPT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOJ
FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT TUNED IN TO IMPORTANCE OF
CONFERENCE AND THAT EMBASSY'S EFFORTS WOULD BE SPENT
MORE EFFECTIVELY WORKING WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AGENCY. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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